

THIRTIETH

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

AMERICAN COLONIZATION SOCIETY,

WITH THE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS,

AND OF THE

SOCIETY AT ITS ANNUAL MEETING,

JANUARY 19, 1847.



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## ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## AMERICAN COLONIZATION SOCIETY.

January 19, 1847.

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 Barque "Rothschild," with emigrants from Ohio, Kentucky, and Tennessee, for Liberia.
 

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As we survey the transactions of the past year, in order to present a concise history of them and their results, we are filled with no ordinary emotions of gratitude to God for his preserving care, and his abounding favors. Many have been the tokens of his love, and unceasing the manifestations of his Providential regards. In obstacles surmounted, in dangers avoided, and in good achieved, he has graciously ministered to our hope and confidence for future exertion.

Shortly after the last annual meeting, the barque "Rothschild" sailed from New Orleans, with emigrants from Ohio, Kentucky, and Tennessee, for Liberia. Our friends in Kentucky, had expressed great anxiety that something should be done to give a new impulse to the cause in their State. For this purpose, it had been proposed to establish a settlement in Liberia to be called KENTUCKY, and to form a

home for all whom they might send to it. Of the *sixty-one* emigrants by the "Rothschild," *thirty-five* were from Kentucky, the pioneers in this new and noble enterprise. They were well adapted to their peculiar work. Twelve of them were members of the Church; two were Ministers of the Gospel; three were carpenters; one was a blacksmith, and one a shoemaker, while nearly all of them were under thirty-five years of age.

The "Rothschild" reached Monrovia, on the 15th of March, with *sixty-three* emigrants, all in good health and spirits. A tract of land, beautiful and fertile, had been selected for "Kentucky," on the northwest side of the St. Paul's river, extending along the river, from the settlement of Millsburg, twenty miles, to the sea; thence running along the seabeach in a northwesterly direction, about thirty miles, and thence into the interior about

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Barque Chatham.—Relief of the Pons recaptives.

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fifty miles. For fertility, salubrity, and convenience, a better location could not have been made on the coast. In an eligible situation on this tract of land, fifteen comfortable houses of native construction, 14 by 28 feet, had been erected before their arrival for the accommodation of the emigrants, and into which they moved immediately after they were landed from the vessel. The emigrants from Tennessee were located with them, and one of those from Ohio was employed as a school teacher for the settlement. He has a small, but excellent collection of books, and is a member of the Associate Reformed Church. We cannot but regard this as a most propitious commencement of a settlement which will eventuate in untold good to Africa, to the State of Kentucky, and to the emigrants who may hereafter cast in their lot with those already there.

On the 1st of May, the barque "Chatham," chartered by the New York State Colonization Society, sailed from the port of New York, laden with provisions and clothing for the relief of the recaptives landed at Monrovia by the slaver "Pons." Two valuable emigrants took passage in this vessel, one from Ohio, and the other from New York City, and both of them possessing talents, education, and character, which qualify them for great usefulness in their new sphere of action.

Several other persons had applied

to the Board of Managers of the New York Society for a passage to Liberia, and great hopes were entertained that a large and respectable company would go from the free States; but as the day of sailing drew near, their hearts failed them through fear, and the persuasions of the enemies of colonization, until they all declined the opportunity. This failure of emigrants is the more worthy of consideration from the fact that the "Chatham" was the first vessel which had, for several years, sailed from a port in a free State, and consequently offered the strongest inducements to colored people in New York and vicinity to embark in her.

The expenses attending this expedition, amounting to upwards of \$5,000, were defrayed by the New York Society, who, in their last report, say: "We feel called upon to express our grateful sense of the liberality of our friends in this city, in Brooklyn, in Newark, and other places, who have so promptly aided us. It has served to strengthen our hands, and enable us to give substantial proof to the colonists, and to the recaptives, of the sympathy of American Christians, by sending out this supply ship, which will amply meet the present exigency, and, as we hope, be adequate to the permanent relief of those who are not otherwise provided for."

The "Chatham" arrived at Monrovia on the 8th of June, and her

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The first and second view of Liberia.—Sailing of the Liberia Packet.

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seasonable supply of provisions was distributed as circumstances seemed to demand. The two emigrants, by her, express themselves in terms of high admiration of their new homes; and one of them having very influential connexions in New York, has written home letters in which he gives utterance to his convictions in the following language:

"On a person's first view of this place, he is very apt to form a poor opinion of it. This was the case with me; but after I had been amongst the people, and saw the manner in which they lived, and how intelligent and refined they were, and, above all, that they enacted, and were governed by, their own laws, and when I considered that I was for the first time in my life breathing a free atmosphere, and in a country where the white man does not hold sway, and an individual, however humble, if he qualifies himself, may attain to eminence and distinction, I really felt surprised that I could have remained contented so long in America.

"I sincerely think, that if the colored people of the United States could only see what a fine country this is, and might be made by a little exertion, their prejudices against the Colonization Society and the Colony would be entirely removed."

Early in April, we resolved to send a vessel from Norfolk, with emigrants, to sail about the last of June. This determination was formed in view of applications made to us for a passage for upwards of one hundred emigrants. Before having made any definite arrangements for the expedition, we ascertained that very few of that number would be

ready and able to go at that time. Upwards of sixty of them were wheedled away to the free States. Some few of them chose finally to linger out a miserable and degraded existence here, rather than go to Liberia, where they might enjoy advantages which would elevate them to the dignity of men; while others of them were detained by circumstances which neither they nor we could control.

In view of this state of things, it was determined to postpone the sailing of the vessel until the time of our regular fall expedition.

The "LIBERIA PACKET" sailed from Baltimore on the 3d of December, carrying out twenty-seven emigrants for the American Colonization Society, and fourteen for the Maryland Society, and a large supply of goods for the purchase of territory, and purposes of general improvement.

We were greatly disappointed in the number of emigrants who were ready to sail in the Packet. From applications which had been made, and assurances given to us, we were led to anticipate from a hundred and twenty to a hundred and thirty persons. Among those who sailed for Liberia, were some very intelligent and well educated men and women, in the prime of life, devotedly pious, and breathing the right kind of spirit, in view of the dangers and privations which were before them. A large part of them were set free, by masters now living, for the purpose of going to Liberia. The others, with two exceptions, were

Vessel from New Orleans—disappointed in the number of emigrants.

left their freedom by their mistress, late of Westmoreland county, Va.

During the past summer, we were informed, by executors in Tennessee, that thirty-five slaves, under their care, *must* be sent to Liberia at the close of the year. Our friends in Kentucky, were very anxious that a reinforcement should be sent from their State to their new settlement on the St. Paul's. Our agent, the Rev. A. M. Cowan, after much correspondence, and visiting various parts of the State, was "persuaded that at least sixty persons would be ready to leave Louisville by the 15th of December," and was much impressed with the benefit which would accrue to the cause in the field of his agency, from the departure of a large number of emigrants. We accordingly gave notice that an expedition would sail from New Orleans about the 20th of December, with emigrants from the southwestern States.

But we were again destined to be disappointed. The emigrants, from Tennessee, were unable to leave at that time by reason of legal difficulties being thrown in their way. Those from Kentucky, with the exception of three, failed to appear at Louisville, where our agent had gone to receive and accompany them to New Orleans. What particular reasons operated to deter them, or what peculiar causes prevented them, we have not yet learned. Doubtless they were similar to those which have operated in similar cases on *this side of the mountains.*

The "Mary Wilks" therefore sailed from New Orleans with only eleven emigrants. She took out, however, a full cargo of freight, a part of which is for the purchase of territory, and the remainder for sale.

The learned blacksmith, Ellis, and family, sailed in this vessel. The departure of such a person for Liberia is, of itself, an event of immense importance.

It will be observed, that the number of emigrants sent out during the past year is smaller than we had been led to anticipate.

How is this to be accounted for? Is there any thing in the present state of affairs, in this country, which will account for it? Or is it true that many of the slaves, as well as the free colored people, are unwilling to go to Liberia? We are aware that several large families have been offered their freedom, by their masters, if they would emigrate, who have declined it. We know, too, that very active efforts have been made to induce them to remain in their present condition. We know that there are in almost every community, men who claim to be the exclusive friends of the colored population, and yet who are industriously instilling into their minds the most bitter prejudices against colonization. It seems to us, that if the colored people could properly appreciate the blessings of freedom, and the great social, moral, and political advantages they would enjoy in a country governed and regulated by laws of their own en-

A colonist's efforts in Conn. to get his kindred to go with him.—Opposition among the colored people.

actment, they would toil late and early to raise the means necessary to carry them to this land of promise; and yet the history of the past year proves that the great body of them are so blinded to their own best interests that they will not consent to go, even when their expenses are paid. One of the colonists returned to this country early in the year, having many kindred and friends residing in the State of Connecticut, whom he was anxious to convince that they could vastly improve their condition and prospects by returning with him to his adopted home. He spent the summer among them. Talked the whole matter over with them. They saw, and admitted, that there was not a country in the world where greater advantages were held out to the industrious settler. And did they hasten thither as their friend advised them to, and as they were persuaded would be best? No. They let him return, and they chose rather to stay in a country where they are denied, and must forever be denied, all the rights and privileges of freemen!

Through the labors of our agent in Indiana, a considerable degree of interest was, early in the past year, awakened in the minds of many of the colored people in the vicinity of Terre Haute, who, after deliberate consultation, selected one of their number, and appointed him their agent to go to Liberia, examine the country, and return and report to them the state of facts, in order that

they might make up their minds with evidence before them which they could not doubt, derived from one whom they could not suspect. The person chosen as their agent was a Presiding Elder in the Conference of the African Meth. Church; a man of undoubted piety and of high standing among them.

But no sooner had the enemies of colonization heard of it, than they made a regular effort to prevent him from fulfilling the appointment, resolving that they would turn him out of the church if he attempted any such scheme, and that if he left the State on such an errand, he should never, with their consent, return to it again.

What inference can be drawn from their conduct on this occasion? Manifestly this, they *know* that Liberia is a *better* place than they have represented it to be, and they are afraid of the result of a fair investigation under circumstances altogether favorable to themselves.

About the middle of April last, a large meeting of colored people was held in Cleveland, Ohio, to consider certain propositions, made by some of their number, for emigrating to Oregon or California. The assembly was addressed by several individuals, and the discussion grew so warm, and the feeling so general and strong against emigrating, that the party in favor of it withdrew from the meeting, abandoning the ground wholly to their opponents, who with great vehemence and enthusi-

The "Randolph negroes" and Mercer county resolutions.—Abolitionists, &c.

asm passed a bundle of resolutions, declaring "that in the present aspect of affairs, the condition of the colored race would not be improved by emigration: that colonization is, and ought to be condemned by the colored people: that the *colored* colonizationist is as bad as the *white* colonizationist, and that both ought to be condemned: and that it is the duty of the colored people to stay where they are, and continue to contend earnestly for their rights, trusting in the power of truth and the God of justice for a final triumph!"

It would be strange indeed, if from *that* region, and under the influence of *those* men, any body should determine to emigrate to Liberia!

It was not very long after the adoption of the above resolutions, that about FOUR HUNDRED slaves were liberated by the will of the late JOHN RANDOLPH, and sent to Mercer county, Ohio, where lands had been purchased for them and where they expected to live together in the enjoy-

ment of good neighborhood and all the sweets of liberty. When they had reached the threshold of their anticipated homes, they were met by an armed company of men and driven back,\* and after spending most of their money, they were scattered about in the adjacent country, here a few, and there a broken fragment of a family, in a manner most shocking even to *their* ideas of the social relations. The principal one among them, and his family, having some means at command, made his way back to Virginia, preferring to *live* in slavery, to *staying* in *freedom* under such circumstances.

Not long since, a company of liberated slaves was taken from Western Virginia into one of those fiercely abolition counties in Ohio; but such opposition was made by the citizens to their settling among them, that the person who had them in charge, left them in the public road, at midnight, and fled!†

It seems almost impossible, that acts like these, continually occurring

\* The following are the *resolutions* passed by the assembled people of Mercer county on that occasion. They are characteristic, and sufficiently fierce certainly. We think their equal can hardly be found anywhere *South*:

"*Resolved*, That we will not live among negroes; as we have settled here first, we have fully determined that we will resist the settlement of blacks and mulattoes in this county to the full extent of our means, *the bayonet not excepted*."

"*Resolved*, That the blacks of this county be, and they are hereby, respectfully requested to leave the county on or before the first day of March, 1847; and in the case of their neglect or refusal to comply with this request, we pledge ourselves *to remove them*. '*peaceably if we can, forcibly if we must*.'"

"*Resolved*, That we who are here assembled, pledge ourselves not to employ or trade with any black or mulatto person, in any manner whatever, or permit them to have any grinding done at our mills, after the first day of January next."

† We desire our friends to contrast with the feelings and conduct of these *professed* friends of the colored people, the feelings and conduct of others of the same school, as exhibited in the following fact: "There is living in Ohio, said he, a worthy citizen, a Mr. G., a native of Virginia, who after a residence there for some eight or ten years, re-

These things ought to convince colored people.—Sentiment from the North American Review.

in the free States, should not have some influence on sensible reflecting colored men. How can they fail to see, that, however much we deplore it, continued trouble, deeper depression, and more hopeless degradation awaits them in this country! Can they ever attain to the rights and privileges they are now struggling for, and demanding! How is it possible for them to dream that they can ever enjoy a comfortable, quiet, and honorable *home* here, and possess that share in the management of public affairs which alone can make them *feel* and *act* as men and as citizens! Must they not come, however reluc-

tantly, to the conclusion, and acknowledge, that the policy of colonizationists, is the only true and sanative policy ever yet adopted? It proposes to place them in circumstances propitious to the full development of their powers. In this country, while things remain as they are at present, there is no place where this can be done. Go where they may, they encounter an invincible prejudice, which excludes them from the honors of political, and the comforts of social life, and reminds them of their deeply depressed condition.\* On every hand, the more favored race is multiplying around

turned to Virginia, on a visit to see a brother who still remained in the 'Old Dominion.' Mr. G. gave his brother an interesting account of the prospects and policy of Ohio, with which he was much pleased. The Virginia brother remarked to Mr. G. that he found his slaves a great burthen to him and requested him to take them all to Ohio and set them free! 'I cannot do it,' said Mr. G. 'Why?' asked his brother. 'The citizens of Ohio will not allow me to bring 100 negroes among them to settle,' said Mr. G. 'But,' said he, 'I can put you upon a plan by which you can get rid of them and get them into Ohio very easy. Do you take them to Wheeling and there place them on a steamboat for Cincinnati, and speak of taking them to New Orleans; and while you are looking out for another boat, give the chance, and the Abolitionists will steal the whole of them and run them off, and then celebrate a perfect triumph over them. But if you take them to the same men and ask them to receive and take care of them, they will tell you to take care of them yourself.'—*Rev. B. T. Kavanaugh.*

\* "How it is that the free colored race can look with complacency on their condition in any part of this country is more than we can understand. True, it may be better at some future day than it is now; we hope and trust that it will. But we speak of it as it is now, and surely there is no immediate prospect of a change for the better; and we cannot comprehend why they should wish to detain those who are desirous to make the experiment of other influences and a more favored land. We are well aware, that the free people of color in this country have now a great prejudice against expatriation. This, they say, is their native land, and why should they leave it? Ay, why *should* they leave it, if they can find an inducement to stay? Egypt was the native land of Moses and the Israelites; but their native air was not particularly good for their constitutions, and though they sometimes sighed for it in their discontent, they would doubtless have been sorry enough to have been taken at their word, and sent back again to the flesh-pots, cucumbers, and melons, not to speak of the brick-yards. We cannot see the especial fascinations in any part of this country, which should make a separation from it so heart-rending. We apprehend that, if our portion in it was like theirs, we should sound a retreat at the first opportunity, and without incurring the penalty of Lot's wife by looking back on the forsaken home. It passes our comprehension to discover what they can find here, in the way either of enjoyment or hope, that should be so difficult to resign. It is true, that better days may come in process of time; but meanwhile, it would seem as well to go to better days wherever they can find them, even if beyond the sea. But this is matter of taste; and if the colored citizens of America prefer their present condition, such as it is, no one asks them to leave it; they are at perfect liberty to remain to the end of time, if such is their pleasure."—*North American Review for October, 1846.*

Colored people will soon be crowded out of employment.—Dr. Alexander's opinion.—Effects, &c.

them, filling every avenue to wealth, engrossing every desirable business, and monopolizing every honorable employment. The rapid increase of our own population, the immense inflow of foreigners, who must gain a living by their labor, and who can labor to the best advantage, are sad evidences that the day is not far distant when they will be crowded out of every lucrative employment, and thereby depressed lower than they are at present, and thus compelled, in self-defence and for self-preservation, to seek a home in some other land ! This result may not be for years yet, but premonitions of its approach are now seen in every city in the land.

Much as we deprecate this state of things, we would anticipate its approach and in advance prepare a home for them when it comes. We would have them aroused from their present dreams to the reality of its approach, and led to take the measures necessary to save themselves and their children from the certain wretched-

ness and degradation which await them. And we therefore present colonization to them at every opportunity, as the only practicable remedy for the ills which at present beside them.\*

During the past year we have circulated among them a large amount of information on the subject of Liberia. Many of them take the Repository. Many of them have sought information from us in various ways. Some of our friends have also taken much interest in imparting to them all necessary information.

In many places we can now see the benefits arising from these labors. A spirit of inquiry has been awakened in many minds heretofore careless and indifferent. Were there no opposing influences exerted upon them, we doubt not that a large number of the most intelligent among them would in the course of a year or two emigrate to Liberia. Some of them will doubtless never be convinced. A correspondent in one of our western cities, makes this remark, "There is

\* "It is in vain to declaim about the prejudice of color; however unreasonable, it will long continue to exist, and will prove an effectual bar to the possession and enjoyment of the same privileges and advantages which the white population enjoy. If I were a colored man, I would not hesitate a moment to relinquish a country where a black skin and the lowest degree of degradation are so identified, that scarcely any manifestation of talent, or course of good conduct, can entirely overcome the prejudice which exists, and which is as strong, if not stronger, in the free than in the slaveholding States:—and I would use every exertion to reach a land where it is no crime, and no dishonor, to appear in a colored skin—a country where no white superiors exist to look down with contempt upon the colored race, but where they are the lords of the soil, and the rulers of the nation. I cannot but admire the honest ambition and noble daring of the first emigrants from this country to Africa. Then no Liberia existed. The Society did not own one foot of ground on that continent, and it was extremely doubtful whether they would be able to obtain any territory for a colony. Yet these lion-hearted men, resolved to run every risk, took, as it were, their lives in their hands. They went out, like Abraham, not knowing whither they went, or what destiny awaited them. And the event proved, that they were called by the providence of God, to engage in this hazardous enterprise. And I cannot but feel pity for the grovelling views of many colored men, now residing in a state of degradation in this country, who, in Liberia, might rise to wealth and independence, and perhaps, to high and honorable office."—*A. Alexander, D. D.*

Importance of Colonization.—LIBERIA PACKET built, and influence of.

a very prevalent prejudice among our colored people against the noble enterprise of colonization, and it seems almost impossible to induce them to attend to its claims. *A colored Baptist preacher of our city, prays God regularly, that he may never be convinced of the righteousness of African colonization !*"

There is perhaps no one aspect of our enterprise to which the energies of its friends should be directed with more intensity and perseverance than the one we have been considering. It is not for a moment to be supposed that the efforts of private benevolence will suffice to develop Liberia and remove thither the colored people of this country. Part of this work it has already performed. The cornerstone of a great and enlightened republic has been laid. The structure has been reared in part and prepared for the comfort of its inhabitants. Those already in it could not be persuaded to exchange it for any other. They give to the world the example of a moral, well ordered and free community, governed by wise laws of their own enacting.

Now what we need is that the eyes of the colored people in this country should be opened to see the inviting light which Liberia throws across the deep; that their hearts should be cultivated to feel the attractions that are there, to such a degree that nothing can keep them away; that unaided and of themselves they will cross the Atlantic and make Liberia their home. Then, and not till

then, will the full energies of colonization be developed!

In our last annual report we mentioned that a company had been formed who intended to run a regular packet between the Chesapeake and Liberia, and that the stock had been taken.

We have now the pleasure of stating that a vessel has been built at a cost of more than \$19,000 with special reference to the accommodation of emigrants, having every arrangement and fixture which can be desired for their *health and comfort*, and second only to those of the first class of passenger ships. She sailed on her first voyage on the 3d of December last. It is intended to keep her running regularly, making two or three voyages a year according to the amount of emigrants and freight offered by the Colonization Societies.

It is believed that the running of this packet will not only reduce the current expenses of sending out emigrants, but will have a happy influence in removing the prejudices of the colored people, disabusing their minds of the false impressions which they have entertained respecting Liberia, and uniting them to their *free* Liberian brethren in bonds which can never be sundered. On this subject the editor of the Maryland Colonization Journal thus remarks:

"The building, the launching, and the sailing of this packet, thus devoted to this great missionary work; owned in part, and to be mainly owned by colored people themselves, has produced a new era in colonization,

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The receipts of Society, \$39,900 02. All thing considered they show an increase of favor.

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it has awakened the colored man from his torpor—it has broken the shell of prejudice in which he had been long enveloped—it has proved in fact ‘the sound of a going in the tops of the mulberry trees,’ and no fear need exist, but ‘the bestirring of themselves’ will follow. We have long since declared, and we were the first to declare it effectively, that if Liberia was ever to be free, and to be well governed, that government must be administered by a colored man; and we now as firmly believe, that if the cause of colonization is to prosper—if the colonies are to receive larger and valuable accessions of emigrants from this country, it must be through the agency and action of the colored people themselves; it must be in vessels of their own, and under their own direction, and we view this one barque, this ‘Liberia Packet,’ of which we have said so much, for which we have felt so much and labored so hard, as but the small beginning of an extensive system of operations to be by them prosecuted and perfected!”

The receipts of the past year were \$39,900 02. This falls short of the amount received during the year preceding. But by a comparison of the Financial Reports of the two years, it will be perceived that this can be accounted for, without attributing any decrease of interest to the patrons of the Society, or any want of efficiency and success to its agents. At the opening of our last report, it was our mournful duty to record the death of several valued friends and liberal contributors. From legacies left by them to the Society, we received during that year \$17,395 44.

Our present report opens with no such record of departed friends,

while the Financial Report shows the total receipts from legacies to be only \$1,307 20, making a difference in the receipts of the two years of \$16,088 24, from this source alone.

In 1845 we received \$977 68 for the passage of emigrants. The past year we have received nothing from this source.

In 1845 the New York Society paid their money into our treasury. The past year, as already mentioned, they appropriated it themselves, without any of it passing through our hands.

These three items alone, added to the acknowledged receipts of the past year, would increase them several thousand dollars beyond those of the year preceding.

We are therefore convinced by the receipts of the Society that there has been during the year a gradual increase of attachment to this cause; that old friends have held fast their integrity; that new friends have been made, and that nothing can shake the public confidence in the benevolent character of the enterprise and its adaptation to the stupendous achievement contemplated by its founders.

We have also arrived at this same conclusion from other sources of evidence. From our numerous and attentive correspondents in all parts of the country, we have received numerous and gratifying tokens of increasing favor in their various sections. Our agents are all encouraged in their laborious work, and all, with-

*Opinions in favor of Colonization.—Newspapers.—State of Liberia, from Gov. Roberts's message.*

out a single exception, think they see still brighter days approaching. They are also successful in raising money beyond the most sanguine expectations of the best informed friends in their respective fields of labor.

The New York Society in their last annual report, say :

"Never before in the history of our enterprise has there been a year so fruitful of good as that now terminating."

The Massachusetts Society in their last annual report say that their agent

"Has collected funds in about eighty parishes, from forty-five of which nothing was received last year and many of which were not previously accessible."

By other societies similar sentiments have been expressed. The circulation of the AFRICAN REPOSITORY has increased during the year. A new paper called "The Liberia Advocate," has been established at St. Louis, Missouri, by the Rev. R. S. Finley, on his own private responsibility and cost. Another has been established at Indianapolis under the supervision of the Indiana Colonization Society, called the "Colonizationist;" and another at Frankfort, Kentucky, by the agent of the Kentucky Colonization Society. One peculiar feature of these two last papers is, that they are composed of articles furnished by their editors to one or more of the *political* newspapers in the places where they are published, and then at the end of the month they are thrown together and published, at little or no expense be-

yond the mere cost of paper and press work. This indicates a good state of feeling on the part of the political press, and a strong confidence in the goodness of the cause, as well as of its popularity among the people.

The state of public affairs in Liberia, during the past year, has been of the most encouraging character.

In his last message to the Legislature, Governor Roberts remarks :

"Under the fostering care of the American Colonization Society, the colony has continued to increase in population, intelligence, wealth, and importance; 'a little one has become a thousand,' and is now attracting the attention of the civilized world. It therefore becomes us, in entering once more upon the duties of legislation, humbly to acknowledge our dependence upon Him, who is infinite in wisdom and power, as our guide and protector; and to implore a continuance of His watchfulness over the affairs of these colonies.

"We have continued cause for the expression of our gratitude to Almighty God, that another year finds us in the enjoyment of the blessings of peace, law, order and religion; that the health of our fellow citizens has been preserved; that the earth has yielded abundant fruits to the labors of the husbandman; that, notwithstanding the interruptions to trade, new activity has been imparted to commerce; and that every department of the government seems to be going on well and prosperously, excepting only the unsettled state of our affairs in regard to the jurisdiction of the colony, and the restrictions imposed by Great Britain, denying to us the power to exercise sovereign and independent rights."

Receipts of Colonial Treasury.—Relations of Liberia with surrounding tribes.—The "Pons" captives.

In almost every department of civil, social, religious, and political enterprise, there is a manifest improvement over the preceding years. Measures were adopted by the Legislature early in 1846, to extend the benefits of public education more widely and efficiently than had been previously the case. Several important acts were also passed respecting public morals, one of which respects the better observance of the Sabbath; while another restricts the sale of ardent spirits to those who have obtained a *license*, for which they are obliged to pay five hundred dollars.

The receipts into the public *treasury* of the Commonwealth exceeded those of any preceding year. In 1844, the revenue was \$8,175. In 1845, it was \$8,853, being an increase of \$678. The balance in the treasury at the close of 1844, was \$201, at the close of 1845, it was \$989. The revenue has been sufficient to meet all the current expenses of the Government, and leave a considerable sum for making improvements, as will be seen by the following statement of the receipts and expenses laid before the Legislature at their last annual assembly:

"Receipts:—Duties on imports, \$5,853: Anchorage and light duty, \$305: Licenses to colonial vessels, \$28: Licenses to commission merchants, retailers, and auctioneers, \$834: Military and court fines, \$212: Sale of public lands, \$140: Sale of sundries at Central Fort, \$78: Deposited by the Executor of D. Johnston's estate, \$1,975: making a total of \$8,525.

"Disbursements:—Paid expenses of the Legislature for 1845, \$378: Paid Lieutenant Governor Benedict, for services in 1844, \$300: Paid Judiciary Department, \$918: Paid for the support of prisoners, &c., \$1,044: Paid for elections, \$90: Paid expenses of light-house and signal master, \$226: Paid pensions, \$74: Paid for public improvements, \$2,486: Paid for territory, \$457: Paid collectors and school teachers, \$1,085: Paid balance due the estate of W. Savage, \$263: Contingencies, \$212; making a total of \$7,536; leaving a balance in favor of the treasury this day of \$989."

The relations of Liberia with the surrounding tribes continues of the most friendly character. The Commonwealth has pursued a benevolent as well as a just policy toward all the neighboring tribes, which has won upon their affections and confidence, and opened the way for exerting a favorable influence to civilize and Christianize them. Hence, those tribes are now accessible to missionaries and school teachers, many of whom, from among the colonists, are laboring among them.

A most interesting exhibition of the kind feelings entertained by the citizens of Liberia toward the natives is seen in the manner in which they received and provided for the captives of the "SLAVER PONS." There were seven hundred and fifty-six, naked, starving, savage *paupers* thrown upon their shores. What did they do with them? Not what the "Mercer county" people did with the "Randolph negroes." They took them into their houses, clothed and

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Character of the "Pons" people—trouble—expense—they are now improving.

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fed them, and made provision for their education. Where is there to be found a community in this country, ready to receive such a population and do for them the charitable and humane part that the Liberians did by these poor wretches? To educate in all the arts and refinements of civilized life, such a company of the wildest savages, is a work of no small difficulty and expense; but still it was undertaken with cheerfulness, and has thus far been carried on without complaint. And yet the citizens of Liberia have had a vast amount of trouble with these recaptives. They knew nothing of laboring for a living—they were destitute of moral principle—they were adverse to all kinds of restraint—they were unwilling to submit to law, or observe order; hence, they were ready for any wickedness that offered itself. Many of them left the homes that were provided for them, and wandered about in the neighborhood of the settlements, stealing whatever they could lay their hands upon, and committing all manner of depredations. Nor is this to be wondered at, when we remember that many of them came from tribes who

"Devoured each other like the beasts,  
"Gorging on human flesh;"

and that it is not the work of a day or a year to tame the savage breast, or to transform the tiger into a lamb.

We are however happy to have it in our power to state that many of them have uniformly conducted

themselves with propriety, and that they are making rapid improvement in civilization, manners, industry, and the minor branches of education. Many of those who left their homes to roam about the country, have returned to them, and now seem contented.

They all express the most heartfelt gratitude for their deliverance from the wretched doom that awaited them in the "Pons," and for their being landed at Liberia, rather than at Cabinda or vicinity, from whence they would soon and certainly have been again torn and sold to the slaver. They are proud to adopt civilized habits, and show great eagerness and aptness in their acquisition of the English language.

From these considerations, we are led to hope, that, ultimately, they will make good citizens of Liberia, and be the honored instruments in the hands of God of introducing the principles of civilization and Christianity among the heathen tribes to which they originally belonged, and thus add another to the already numerous instances in which God has "educated good out of evil," caused the "wrath of man to praise him, and restrained the remainder of his wrath" in the dispensations of His Providence toward the African race.

We cannot, in this connexion, refrain from making a remark or two concerning the manner in which these recaptives were thrown, thus *destitute*, upon the bounty of the Liberians.

The law of 1819, and the imposition of landing them destitute, and leaving us to support them.

It is well understood that it is a part of the policy of the United States Government, in their efforts to suppress the slave trade, to return the slaves found on board of slave ships, which are captured by our men-of-war, to the coast, and land them at Liberia. But it is not so well understood that the Government makes no provision for their comfort and support *after* they are thus landed. What right has the United States Government to throw them upon the mercy of the infant settlements there? Manifestly none at all.

Formerly the law of 1819 was understood to make provision for supporting recaptives after being landed in Liberia, until they could take care of themselves. President *Monroe* so interpreted it, and acted accordingly. But of late years the attorney generals have construed the law differently, and have decided that it simply provides for returning recaptives to Liberia, and for keeping a "United States agent for recaptured Africans" there; and then leaves them entirely destitute, and him without a dollar to provide for their comfort. This is a most singular case indeed. Our government has engaged in a humane effort to benefit the poor Africans, by suppressing the slave trade. For this purpose, it supports a squadron on the coast at a very heavy expense. One of the vessels of this squadron, carrying out her instructions, seizes a slave ship with upwards of *nine hundred* children and youth on board,

carries them back to the coast and pitches them on shore, in a sick and dying condition, and makes no provision for taking care of them even for a single day! This cannot be regarded in any other light than that of sheer injustice to the recaptives, and oppression to the citizens of Liberia. There is no obligation resting on them to support these people. They have to struggle hard to take care of themselves, unaided by governmental protection, and oppressed by those stronger than themselves.

We, therefore, earnestly hope that the United States Government will soon make some more liberal provision for carrying out their efforts for the suppression of the slave trade. It ought not to be expected that the citizens of Liberia should assume the responsibility, and meet the expense of the support and education of all recaptives whom the United States squadron may land on their soil.

It is an acknowledged fact, that Liberia has done, and is now doing, more for the suppression of the *slave trade* than the combined navies of the world. Her influence will be powerful for this end, just in proportion to her general prosperity and enlargement. If, therefore, the United States Government is anxious to suppress the slave trade, and we doubt not she is, and if she desires to accomplish it in the most expeditious and successful way, it is a dictate of sound wisdom, that she should

Purchase of territory, about 80 miles.

in every constitutional and conceivable manner assist (instead of retard) the Commonwealth of Liberia, making it the instrument for the suppression of that gigantic evil, and the extension of the principles of civilization and good government, and the enlargement of the sphere of American commerce.

In the last Annual Report it was stated that the fund for the purchase of territory had all been subscribed, and more than half of it paid into the treasury. Since that time, the balance of it, excepting \$1,500, has been paid, and forwarded to Liberia. With these means, considerable progress has been made in achieving this desirable object. Governor Roberts in his message, January, 1846, says:

"In conformity with an act of the last session of the Legislature, authorizing the purchase of certain territory in the Little Bassa country—Messrs. Teage and Brown, duly commissioned, proceeded to Bassa, in February last, and succeeded in purchasing the remaining portion of that country, which secures to the commonwealth an unbroken line of coast from Digby to Grand Bassa point. We have also succeeded in extinguishing the native title to the entire Sinou country, which gives us at that point some forty miles of sea coast, and will be a great acquisition to the settlement of Greenville. In both instances, the native tribes have not only ceded to the colony the right of soil, but have also, by a formal compact, surrendered to this government the supreme judicial authority and political jurisdiction and control over the persons and property of all within that territory—and,

at their own special request, they have been permitted to incorporate themselves with the colonists, subscribe to the constitution and laws of the commonwealth, become citizens of Liberia, and as such are entitled to the care and protection of this government."

The sloop "Economy" was chartered by Governor Roberts, and sailed on the 9th of January last with a full and suitable cargo of merchandize, in the charge of two commissioners who were appointed for the purpose, and who were authorized to contract for all the unpurchased territory lying between Grand Bassa Point and Grand Cesters.

Of their success, Governor Roberts remarks in his despatch of June 25th:

"I am happy to be able to inform you that the commissioners despatched not long since, of which you have been advised, to treat with the natives for territory, have succeeded quite as well as I had any reason to expect, indeed, beyond my most sanguine hopes.

"I have the honor herewith to transmit to you copies of deeds for ten tracts of country purchased from the native chiefs; commencing at the south-east termination of our purchase from the Blue Barra tribe, and extending along the coast about eighty miles, embracing all the territory, except Settra Kroo, lying between Little Kroo and Little Sesters inclusive; also eight miles of sea coast, farther north, embracing all the Tassoo and Bassoo Bay territory.

"I feel pretty sanguine that, with the twenty thousand dollars, we shall be able to secure all the territory we need. I am, at present, more concerned about New Cesters,

Independence of Liberia.—Action of Legislature thereon, and the vote of the citizens, &c.

Trade Town, and Settra Kroo, than any other points along the coast. The slavers at the former and foreign traders at the latter places, are doing all in their power to arrest our negotiations with the natives.

"We shall, however, no doubt succeed; though we may, in consequence of such interference, have to pay a pretty round sum. Grand Cape Mount we must also have if practicable. I hope after the arrival of the next vessel with supplies, soon to be able to give a good account of our doings."

The proposition relative to the Independence of Liberia, adopted at the last annual meeting of the Board of Directors, was sent to Governor Roberts, by the first opportunity. He issued a proclamation, convening the Legislative Council on the 13th of July, to consider what measures they would adopt on the subject. They remained in session three days, during which time the members expressed their sentiments fully and earnestly. Great interest prevailed among the community, who flocked to hear the discussions.

The result of these deliberations, was embodied in the following resolution:

"*Resolved*, That the Governor be instructed to command the people by proclamation issued in reasonable time, to meet in the respective towns and villages in the commonwealth, on such day as the Governor may select, to make such disposition of the said resolutions (of the Board of Directors of the American Colonization Society) and to take such further action in the premises, as in their wisdom they may deem proper."

Of this resolution Governor Ro-

berts, in his despatch of the 19th of October, remarks:

"You will perceive by the proceedings of the legislature, herewith transmitted, that the preamble and resolutions have been submitted to the consideration of the people, who will determine, by a solemn vote, what disposition shall be made of them, and should a new organization be determined upon, to fix upon the course proper to be adopted for carrying into effect the suggestions of the Board, contained in said resolutions."

"By proclamation, Tuesday, 27th instant, is fixed as the day on which the people, throughout the commonwealth, will assemble in the various towns and villages to vote on the question."

The election was accordingly held on the 27th October and it was ascertained that a majority of the people were in favor of assuming the entire responsibility of their government.

In his despatch of November 9, Governor Roberts says:

"I have only time to inform you that the vote of the citizens, taken on the 27th ultimo, on the question of independence, is in favor of adopting the suggestions of the Board, and recommends the call of a *convention* to draft a constitution for the commonwealth. The legislature at its session in January next, will, of course, order a convention and adopt rules for its government."

It will thus appear that the citizens of Liberia are proceeding in this difficult and responsible matter, with that calmness and deliberation which the importance of the occasion demands. In this respect, they give us much hope that in the future they will manage their affairs with wisdom

The Liberia Herald with regard to independence.

and discretion; that when the hour of trial comes, they will be found to possess sufficient nerve to meet it, sufficient knowledge and weight of character, to carry themselves nobly through. They will doubtless construct their new constitution on the soundest republican principles, wisely arranged, and judiciously adapted to their peculiar condition and circumstances.

The question has been frequently asked us, "what reason have you to believe that Liberia will maintain her independence: that she will not be persuaded, or bought, to be the colony of some more influential and powerful nation?" We cannot answer this in any way so well as by quoting the following language from the *Liberia Herald*:

"It were not unnatural for the members to ask themselves what assurance have we, that the people of Liberia will not, when sovereign power be lodged in their own hand, seek some other alliance as a means of strength and of security against insult and aggression. And when it is recollected how much American philanthropy has done for the colony, how great sacrifices colonizationists have made of time, of ease, of money and of life, to conduct it to its present condition; how highly they prize it as a practical illustration of the efficiency and energy of American benevolence, and with what intense interest they cannot but regard it as an extension to the eastern hemisphere of those principles of republican liberty and popular institutions, which, among the moderns, their fathers were the first who had the sagacity to discover, the independence to proclaim and the courage to defend

—when these circumstances are present to the mind, not only does the question not appear unnatural, but rather one which would arise with prompt and ready spontaneity; and thus arising become the subject of deep and anxious thought.

"But we think we do but speak the fixed sentiment of the whole people of these colonies, without the exception of a single individual capable of thought, when we say, the great object which at first brought us to Africa is still kindly and tenderly cherished. That great object which loomed in all its grandeur of outline before our eye—which dazzled in our imagination, and roused lofty aspirations, and lured us on from home, and kindred and social endearments—which induced us with patience to suffer, and with fortitude to endure—which gathered motive from danger and strength from defeat: that grand object, to plant a nation of colored people on the soil of Africa, adorned and dignified with the attributes of a civilized and Christian community, is still the object dearer than all others to every Liberian. Indeed, so thoroughly are we penetrated with the conviction of the necessity, that in order to the consummation of this purpose we should stand alone and unembarrassed with any foreign allegiance, we should regard the document which conveyed away our independence nothing less than the record of an abject fate to last through all coming time. Better, far better will it be for us that a century find us still a weak and "feeble folk" than to bend an ignoble neck to the Anglo-Saxon yoke—of whose unrelenting tenacity, when once it has grappled, the whole history of the modern world affords most melancholy examples.

"On this score the society need entertain no apprehension. Here motives the most powerful—fear and

The Cblonists generally in favor of declaring their Independence.

hope and burning desire, all concur to forbid treachery and to sustain honor and integrity."

Sentiments similar to these, are held by the great majority of the citizens of Liberia. They seem to desire, that patriotism and a proper sense of the duty they owe to themselves and their posterity, should characterize every action they are called upon to perform, and every step they take in a policy on which hangs the future destiny of their growing republic. They seem fully to appreciate the important fact, that a crisis has now arrived, when, by a firm and unbending course, by high resolve and united effort, and strict integrity and virtue, they may prove to a demonstration, and show to the world that *their race* is capable of *self-government*.

If they succeed in convincing men generally of this fact, it will have a tremendous influence in their favor. There are thousands of their own color in this country, who do not believe that they can ever maintain a respectable government themselves, unaided by the whites. There are multitudes of the whites who are very unbelieving on the same grounds. Among the colored people are many who would go to Liberia were they convinced that they would find a comfortable home there, and find themselves and their associates in circumstances favorable to their rising to a respectable standing among the nations of the earth. Many slaveholders would give up their slaves

at once, to be sent to Liberia, were they fully satisfied that they would there find a permanent, safe, and independent abode for them.

The attention of many at the South is directed towards Liberia with intense anxiety. Many are educating a part or the whole of their slaves, with the intention of sending them to Liberia at some future time. How important it is, therefore, that all should be able to cast their eyes across the sea, and behold on the shores of Africa a free and happy republic, composed and governed entirely by colored men, where every honest citizen feels that the incubus which pressed him down in every land is gone, and that he stands upon an equality, as to rights, privileges and prospects, with any other man in the world.

The past history of Liberia, though its results are but imperfectly developed, convinces us that her futurity will be bright and glorious.

"Enough," in the language of the North American Review, "already appears to make it certain, that it will maintain its existence; that it will be a strong and flourishing republic, and, like other republics, with all its faults, it will be a refuge for the oppressed; that it will have power to drive the slave trade from its borders, and to send the light of humanity into the darkness of the Continent, where it stands, like sunlight on the edge of a black cloud, giving promise that the shadow shall pass away.

"More than once it has encountered the tempest of resistance which would have destroyed it, had it been

The weakness of the Colony a guaranty of its safety.—Dr. Alexander's opinion.

less firmly set in the conscience and affection of its supporters, but which, as it is, has given up a deeper root, a mightier bough, and a richer depth of foliage, to shelter those who sit under its extending shade. It has yet much to contend with, as our Government cannot take it under its full protection, it must depend in a great measure upon the sense of honor and right, which prevails among the nations of the earth. We wish it could place more ample confidence in this moral sense; but, if the conscience of nations is weak, there is nothing which any one of them could gain by injury to Liberia, and this is a guaranty on which it can more safely rely. Sometimes a small naval officer may glory over it in the wantonness of power, which has been committed to his unworthy hands; but it is hoped that such airs of importance will be prevented, if not censured; they cannot be permitted without reproach to the nation which allows them. Our own officers have done themselves great honor by the kind and manly interest which they have manifested in the colony, and the open testimony in its favor which they have been ready to give. We hope that it will be strong enough to work out its own results in peace. Prejudice itself cannot well point out any harm which it can do; while there is good reason to hope that it will afford a refuge for the oppressed, and be the means of making to injured Africa some late atonement for its numberless wrongs."

In connection with these sentiments, we cannot refrain from calling attention to the following views of Rev. A. A. Alexander, D. D., one of the oldest and most carefully observant friends of colonization. They are contained in the "Introduction" to his "History of Colonization,"

a book which will richly repay the most careful perusal.

"Whether this colony was commenced in wisdom, or imprudently, it now exists, and cannot be abandoned. There it stands on the savage coast of Africa, and is likely to exist for a long time to come. Hitherto no ill consequence has followed from the prosecution of the scheme of colonization, except the sacrifice of a number of valuable lives on a coast peculiarly unfavorable to the constitution of white men. It has provided a home for some thousands of colored people, a large portion of whom exchanged slavery for freedom, and a degraded condition in society for one of independence and dignity. Who can doubt that the colonists of Liberia are in a far more eligible state, than if they had remained in this country? And who can tell the beneficial influence which they may hereafter exert on the native inhabitants of the dark continent of Africa? This little free republic may, for ought we know, be the germ of a great and flourishing empire. Look back three hundred years, and you will see a few feeble colonies of Europeans struggling with the most formidable difficulties, and often on the very verge of extinction. And now behold these small colonies grown to be one of the most powerful nations upon the earth; extending their commerce to every quarter of the habitable globe; producing by agriculture, in rich abundance, all the articles most necessary for man's subsistence; and manufacturing clothing far more than is needed by its twenty millions of inhabitants. Let it be considered that the same benignant Providence which watched over this rising country, and raised it to its present eminence among the nations of the earth, has also smiled on the infant republic of

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 Anticipations of a bright career for Liberia.
 

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Liberia. The indications of Divine favor towards this colony have been most marked, and some of them truly extraordinary, as will mostly fully appear in the events recorded in the following history.

"The principal difficulties have been encountered and overcome. A work has been achieved, by a few indefatigable and philanthropic men, which, to posterity, will, we doubt not, appear the most interesting and remarkable event of the first part of the nineteenth century. No such work was ever before accomplished by means so inadequate. Unless Providence had signally prospered the enterprise, the object could never have been realized. It is to us, who have with interest marked every disaster, and every step of the progress, a most astonishing object of contemplation, that a private association, in a little more than twenty years, should, by voluntary contributions, without the aid of general government, have been able to establish a well ordered and happy republic on the desert shore of Africa, at the distance of three or four thousand miles! This is, indeed, a thing which would scarcely be credited, if its truth depended on common historical testimony. The idea of removing all the colored population of this country, has been ridiculed as fanciful and impracticable. But however short the enterprise may come of accomplishing all that would be desirable, in regard to this unhappy race, yet let it be kept in mind, that whatever may be accomplished, it so much clear gain; gain to those who go, by greatly meliorating their condition; gain to those who stay, by diminishing their number; gain to the white population who desire to be exempt from this class of people, and prospectively an inconceivable gain to Africa, by kindling on her borders the light of Christianity, civilization, and useful science."

The only rational fear that can be entertained in regard to the probability that the citizens of Liberia will be found inadequate to the emergency of self-government, arises from the time in which they have been training for this responsible duty. As to their *natural capacities*, it is too late to doubt.

"The primary elements of mind," says a late eloquent writer, "in Africa are, essentially, what they are in similar circumstances every where else in the world. The powerful appliances of civilization, science, and religion, will find susceptibilities in the *African* intellect, and plied long enough, will effect the same evolutions of mental capacities, the same inventive powers—the same enterprise, and will give the same general direction to the deathless energy of mind there as in any other quarter of the globe. It is a libel on the benevolence of God, to suppose that he has created a race of rational beings with so stunted mental endowments, that with proper culture they cannot be sufficiently developed and disciplined, to avail themselves of the bounteous means of a happy temporal existence within their reach, and also to rise to those noble destinies of an immortal nature, for which man was made."

Entertaining these views, and believing that the past training of the Liberian mind has disenthralled it, enthroned it in its peculiar sovereignty and power, and invested it with the majesty of an enlightened conscience and Christian sentiment, sufficiently to enable it to stand erect under the immense responsibility of self control, we anticipate for Liberia a bright career of future usefulness! Every faculty will be

Concluding remarks.—Annual Meeting American Colonization Society.—Remarks of Judge Douglass.

aroused—every energy awakened, and with the favoring smiles of a beneficent Providence, their course must be onward and upward.

In closing our review of the prominent events of the last year, we allude to one evidence that the support of this cause has become a matter of deep principle with the community, generally. We have made no special appeal for funds during the year. We have presented no *strong case*, calling for immediate relief. During the preceding year, there were several such topics presented, and many persons were induced to contribute in view of them, who would not have done it other-

wise. But the amount paid into the treasury the past year, has been given under the influence of no special plea. No popular enthusiasm has gathered around some emergency—lifted it, and borne it onward. On the contrary, the great principles, and the general operations of the Society, being well understood, it has been sustained by the thoughtful convictions, and the enlightened benevolence of the wise and the good.

We may, therefore, rely upon them for assistance in our future operations, at the same time that we calculate to make many new friends, and greatly enlarge the sphere of our usefulness.

Extracts from the Proceedings of the thirtieth Annual Meeting of the American Colonization Society.

WASHINGTON CITY,

January 19, 1847.

The American Colonization Society met in the First Presbyterian Church, at 7 o'clock, P. M., agreeably to adjournment. In the absence of the President, the Hon. Elisha Whittlesey, the oldest Vice President present, took the chair, and called the meeting to order.

The Rev. Mr. Wynkoop invoked the Divine blessing.

The Secretary read extracts from the ANNUAL REPORT.

The Hon. Judge Douglass, of Illinois, offered the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the report be accepted, and referred to the Board of Directors.

Judge D. said, he did not rise to make a speech; but there were two thoughts presented in the report which he considered worthy of some amplification. One of the most interesting features about the scheme of colonization is its influence on the *slave trade*. The experiment of the value of naval forces to suppress this trade has been fairly made, and has failed; and it is now the deliberate sentiment of all who have considered the subject, that some more effectual and rapid means must be devised before we can ever hope to see the extinction of this enormous outrage on humanity and religion!

From what has been already done by colonization, we infer that it has an inherent power which nothing else possesses; and looking at the principles which have controlled its movements, we discern in them an adaptation to this very result. Two important influences are exerted by

it. A barrier is erected along the coast which excludes the slaver from entrance, and cuts off his intercourse with the native tribes, who alone can supply the victims of his traffic: and then it enters into the town or settlement of the natives by its divine and sovereign power, changes their minds respecting this traffic—teaches them the feelings of a nobler nature—introduces them to a more valuable commerce, and thus regenerates and reorganizes the state of society, and renders it impossible to find a person who is willing to sell the victims to the slaver. Thus the work is done—done effectually. A wall is thrown up by the colonial settlements along the coast, which secures us a defence, until the minds of the natives can be reached and changed! Give this society the aid it demands, and is worthy to receive, and soon they will extend their settlements all along the coast, and this terrible scourge shall disappear from the earth!

The other aspect of colonization to which he wished to allude, was its bearing on the extension of *American commerce*! It addresses itself to us Americans as patriots! It appeals to us as the friends of commerce and the general prosperity of our whole country. If there shall be a colony built up on the shores of Africa, who can tell the enlargement that it will give to commerce! When their citizens shall number 20, 50, or 100 thousand, they will present a market for our surplus manufactures and bread stuffs which will be of immense value. But this is not all—they will form as it were the entrance to all the interior of that vast and immensely rich continent! The power of the coast must and will have the command of the interior! If that power is held by men sent from this country, nurtured and grown under our institutions, and by our fostering care and aid, in

their national efforts by this society, they will ever be inclined to trade with this country, and thus open to our merchant ships wide fields of wealth!

The great rivalry between America and England is a struggle to control the commerce of the world. The sails of each country now whiten every sea. We are rivals for power, for commerce, for the wealth of other lands.

The policy of England is to fix herself on this point, and plant her standard on that promontory, and thus spread abroad her influence and her power until she can control the commerce of the world!

How is Africa to be controlled? By Liberia? No other settlement, and no other power has half so fair an opportunity of laying under contribution the vast interior of that continent! Liberia is destined, and at no distant day, to control a commerce of immense value, and it must thus become, itself, a wealthy and powerful nation. Then, it is not to be supposed that America will have no share in their favor, and no part in their trade. Their government originated among those who were born on American soil. The feelings of gratitude will bind them to us—the community of language—of feelings, and of climate, will all tend to alienate them from other governments and bind them to ours!

In this aspect of the subject, every American citizen has a deep interest in the prosperity of Liberia, and the enlargement of the means of the Colonization Society.

In conclusion, Judge D. commended the cause to the liberal patronage of every patriot, philanthropist and Christian in the land, as eminently worthy of their true devotion and liberal contributions.

The Rev. Joel Parker, D. D., of Philadelphia, seconded the resolu-

Remarks of Rev. Joel Parker, D. D.—Capabilities of the colored race.

tion offered by Judge Douglass, and said—

I feel a great interest in this colonization movement, and have done for many years. Fourteen years ago, I first went to reside in a slave state. I had previously studied carefully the condition of the free people of color in the free States. Then, I commenced acquaintance with them in the slave States, as well as with the slaves. And the result was, I became convinced of what I had long felt—it is important that we *do something* for these people, and that we do it in the right time, and with the right spirit.

But what *shall* we do for them? What *can* we do? Where shall it be done? How?

I am thoroughly convinced that there is a better thing than the merely doing away with slavery, which some persons seem to think is the "chief end of man." The *elevation* of the colored race is that better work! We must raise their character by education and religion! If we do our duty in this respect, the influence of it will be seen every where. Convince the world that they are capable of self-government—educate them to the ability to enjoy freedom, prepare a place where they be indeed free, and more slaves will be offered to you than you can get the means to transport.

There seems to me in connection with this subject a beautiful illustration of what HALL calls, "a fetch in Divine Providence." God had a design in bringing these people to this country in the way he did. We cannot probably comprehend the whole of it, but this we can see, he has secured the education of those who to all human appearance would not and could not have been educated in any other way. There are now in this country more than 300,000 Africans who can read and write, who

could not have done it if it had not been for the slave trade! There are many in this country and in Liberia, who are capable of preaching the gospel, editing papers, and performing all the duties of civil life, who must have remained in total darkness but for this trade! How came these people by all this knowledge? Did any body go to Africa and teach them? No! It has been done by *slavery*! It has often been said, that "the school of adversity" is one of the best that has ever been established. It may have a practical application in their case. They have been in many instances hardly dealt by. They have indured much. But they have arisen through it all. And you compare their present condition with that of their kindred in Africa, and the one is infinitely above the other. No body can doubt this. Some of them have come up faster than others. The most hopeful among them take the foremost rank. But have all been benefited by being brought to this country?

And now we send them back to Africa, with a preparation for doing a great work there, which we never could have imparted to them in any other way. The Liberians have ideas of education, of government, and of all the relations of life, such as can be found at no Missionary Station on the face of the earth. We cannot make the Sandwich Islanders feel and think as the Liberians do!

In this view of the subject, we may perceive at least *one good* which slavery has done to Africa, and the question may with propriety be asked whether it has not done for Africa more *good* than *harm*? Are there not 10,000,000 of slaves along the coast and 40,000,000 in the interior, whose condition is infinitely worse than any in this country!

It is not for me to say what might have been done for the welfare of

Africa had not the slave trade existed. But if any body supposes that more would have been done under those circumstances than has been under the present, let them answer this question, what ought to induce the benevolent to aid the millions in Africa? Why their deep wretchedness and ruin! Who can look upon them and feel deeply and desire to extend some relief! Well then, if their deeply wretched condition is the exciting cause of whatever has been done for them, and if the slave trade has made their condition worse than it otherwise would have been, then surely more has been done for them, than would have been done, if the slave trade had not existed? Is not that fair reasoning? The contrary certainly cannot be proved. But we have nothing to do with the *ifs* and the *ands* in the case. We have taken the broad ground that *slavery* has done Africa and the African race, a *good*—a great *good*, and we believe that all must admit the facts!

The question, however, still recurs, what more can we, ought we to do for Africa, and for this country? Benevolence demands that something be done. Their condition is far from comfortable, even in the free States, and under the most favorable circumstances in this country. I freely confess I can see no prospect of ultimately benefiting the race by liberating the slaves and sending them to the free States. And it follows therefore, that I can see no prospect of elevating the race to that point at which they ought to be, while they remain in this country. Without amalgamation, perfect equality cannot exist between any two different races, of course this is out of the question. They can never be merged into and lost among the whites. This is as undesirable as it is impossible.

If we send them to Liberia, we have difficulties to encounter on

every hand, in this country and in Africa. We must therefore go on slowly. It has been, perhaps, the salvation of Liberia that but few emigrants have been sent each year. Time has then been given for them to grow up to full strength and vigor of intellect, and to feel the value of their government. Had there been 20,000 or 30,000 raw recruits thrown in upon them, they would have constituted an ungovernable mass and endangered the republic. But we have gone on slowly—we have now a few men, able to govern a small nation—have schools for all—churches for all—all are under good training—they are able to receive 756 wild savages at once, and take care of them and put them in a course of training for future usefulness. There are men of wealth among them and men of experience, and now they all move on safely.

And you must go to LIBERIA, if you would appreciate the full blessings of colonization. You must study *character there and compare it with character here*, in order to see what a redeeming influence there is in placing them out from under the shadow of the whites, and in circumstances where the full responsibility of their own government and elevation rests upon themselves. Liberia imparts a new tone to the character of the African race, such as they can get nowhere else, and such as will distinguish them wherever they go. When I was in New Orleans, some of the colonists who had gone from Mississippi, returned to see their friends and attend to some business, and among them was a *preacher*, who came back improved in his personal appearance, in his language, in his dress and address, which showed that he had studied much, and seen much, that he had felt new influences operating upon him, that he *respected himself*, and he thereby commanded

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Colonists in America.—An objection answered.

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the respects of others. I saw this in that community, in my own church, and among my elders, for he was invited to preach on Sabbath night in a church on the other side of Lafayette square from which mine stood, and in which I was to preach at the same hour, and lo! my congregation left me, and some of my elders went to hear him! What was it that created this interest? He felt the influence of freedom!

An instance was related to me by a friend in Kentucky, which illustrates this idea well. A man by the name of Dick Jones had gone from that neighborhood, and having resided four years in Liberia, came back to the county town where he had formerly resided, the court was in session at the time, and much anxiety was shown to see Dick and see how he liked Liberia. So they brought him among them to have questions asked him. One gentleman inquired, "Dick, how do you like living in Africa?" to which Dick replied that he liked very well, and went on to give a few items which contributed to this. All felt that the answer was a good one, and then a manifest glow of pleasure on many countenances. After he had ceased speaking, another gentleman said, "*Richard*, what sort of a government have you there?" To which Richard gave a very satisfactory statement of the form of government, and the manner in which they manage their affairs. And then another enquired, "JONES, if a white man was with you, in your house, how would you treat him?" "Oh, sir," said Jones, "we should treat him with much respect and invite him to sit down at the table and dine with us!" The next gentleman who questioned him, said, "Mr. JONES!" They had thus insensibly to themselves risen from calling him *Dick*, to that of the most respectful appellation.

They saw in him that independence of thought and that manly bearing which an American always evinces, and they treated him accordingly. And who does not see that this state of feeling is indispensable to their true and permanent elevation!

But an objection is made to colonization because the work goes on so slowly. We are asked, if in some twenty years you have sent out about 5,000 persons, how long will you be in sending the 3,000,000 and more now in the United States? This is a question, any person may see, that is not solvable in the rule of three. It is like the question of the Irishman, "if one stove save half the wood, will not two save it all?" The Society never proposed to send them all. Its past labors have not been confined to sending over emigrants alone. Can any objector tell what proportion of the means of the Society have been expended in the purchase of territory, and in making preparations in Liberia, which once made, will not need renewing again? It is like building an immense edifice, much of the work is done under ground, as it were, in digging down to solid earth and laying firm the foundation!

How long will it be after the resources of Liberia are fully developed, and it is shown to be a safe and comfortable home for the colored people, before they will begin to go there spontaneously? And who can tell how long it will be before they begin to go because they *cannot help* it? The inducements there and reasons here for their emigrating will be overpowering. It will be like it was when Joseph went down into Egypt. He hesitated, and doubted, and feared a long time—but when the wagons came for him, he understood the whole affair. He knew the truth of what had been told him. The wagons—the wagons, coming for *him* and his

family, they settled the question. When that *ship* of which the Report has spoken comes from Liberia owned and manned by colored men, and when the merchants of Liberia come over for their goods, and are doing business on large capitals, that will settle the question. One man will come over worth \$20,000—and another worth \$1,000,000—and they will have all the character and respectability of men about them—and then the colored people will begin to open their eyes! And what can hinder them from going there? They will find out what a country it is—and in the mean time the country itself will be improving, and there will be men there who will want a college, and other men who will be able to endow it, and who will do it, and there is no limit to their improvement.

But we are not in a hurry. It is more important that we attend to the *quality* than the quantity of our emigrants. One head of *grain* of real good wheat, is worth more than a thousand having no *vitality* in them. The law of its *progress* is to be considered. We want the right seed. Seed like that which was sifted for our forefathers; and out of which this great nation has grown!

And then, sir, there is something in its being *slow*, which is important in another respect. It calls out the very best kind of action in those who are there. It is a very select business. We want the intelligent, and do not want the wicked and the vicious.

How does God dispense his blessings? Does he always *pay down*? What will he give you for a certainty? Heaven! Now, or at some future time? He holds out no mercenary motives! Just so in colonization. We do not expect our reward now. Our children will see it—and Africa will rise up and call us blessed! The growth of Liberia may be slow, like

a coral continent—there are a few green spots, and a small gathering of clusters, and here and there some fresh patches, until the continent shall rise up all green with fruits and flowers.

One family now sent to Africa, will in the course of time increase into a whole tribe.

I met a man not long ago, fully six feet high, wearing a drab coat, who asked if I did not know him, and told me that he used to live in New Orleans. And then I recognized the boy, with a satchel on his arm, whom six or eight years ago I knew in the streets of New Orleans. Said he, "they call me Major Wilkinson now. I am a preacher. I was down there until I bought myself. I paid \$800 for my free papers. Then I bought one sister, and paid for her. Then I went to Illinois, and God converted me, and I began to preach. Then I went back to New Orleans, and my friends wanted me to preach there. But the recorder thought I had better not preach there, and then I moved to 'Old Virginny,' and I am now come to you to get some money to help me to buy my family." "But why do you come to me?" "I think you feel for the colored people!" "Are you an abolitionist?" "Yes, I am." "Then why do you not go to the *abolitionists*? I am not one of them." "They will not do any thing for me. They want to get us all free at once. I can't wait for that time to come. And then the south want somebody to buy all their slaves, and so I goes to them, as aint on either side." "Why do you not go to Liberia?" Stretching up himself to the full height, and opening his big eyes, he exclaimed, "and do you think I is going to expatriate myself? Why I am descended from one of the first families in Virginia."

Resolution and remarks by Rev. A. D. Eddy, D. D.

This is, sir, but a specimen of the way in which they are deceived, and a proof of what we have often asserted, that the real friends of the Africans are the colonizationists, and that they themselves will find it out whenever they are in straitened circumstances.

I am, therefore, for going forward in this great work, trusting in the wisdom which cometh down from above to order the progress of the work in such way as shall be most advantageous, and as shall work out the great result in the best manner possible.

The Rev. A. D. Eddy, D. D., of Newark, N. J., offered the following resolution :

*Resolved*, That every year's experience seems to increase our convictions of the value of the principles of the Colonization Society, and that now embraces the only acknowledged method of elevating and blessing the colored race.

Colonization had its origin in genuine Christian philanthropy. Its conceptions were those born of philanthropy and of patriotism. The development of those principles have been seen all along its history. It is now no longer a matter of experiment. It is a fact now. It is history.

What great enterprise has ever been achieved without strong opposition being made to it? But by the manner in which they have met and mastered this opposition, they have commended themselves to the world. So it has been with colonization—treated with dislike and contempt, even by those who of all others had most interest in it.

And yet what has it done? It has founded a Republic, established schools and churches, introduced Christian morals and education into many dark places full of horrid

cruelty—has opened a highway for commerce—has stricken a deadly blow to the slave trade for more than 300 miles of coast, where formerly it raged in the most alarming manner, has proved that the African race can be elevated, and are capable of self-government, and has done more for them wherever they are scattered over the face of the earth than any scheme which has ever yet been adopted.

We look over this country and over Africa, and there are three aspects in which we view the colored race. 1st. In a state of slavery. 2d. Enjoying nominal freedom; and 3d. On the shores of Africa—heathen and savage, and deeply degraded. And we ask by what principles is it proposed to do them all the greatest amount of good? Does not colonization embrace the only certain and efficient means of elevating and Christianizing them as a race?

Christianity is a powerful means of elevating mankind. What do we all owe to it? But this alone will not do all for the Africans that they need. Look at the South for example. There is, perhaps, a large proportion of the slaves in some of the States who are members of the Church than of any other class in the country. And yet they are left degraded, and will be until their relations are changed. Look at the North! Can the Africans there rise? Are they rising? Have they risen?

Look at Africa! Can the millions there be elevated without colonization? Look at Liberia—there you see real elevation of character, enlargement of mind, and fixedness of principle, and all those things which mark a state of society rapidly advancing from a lower to a higher degree of refinement. Now what has made this difference?

Colonization then presents the only method of doing them substantial

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 Situation of colored people in Canada, &c.
 

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and lasting good. Dr. Woods, of Andover, Mass., lately expressed to me his conviction that colonization was the only hope for the African race. I have lived in New Jersey, in western New York, and in the South, and I am persuaded that there is no possibility of imparting to them education and religious culture in their present circumstances. Vain is that philanthropy which would attempt to give them freedom here. You may change their social relations, and place in any free State, but what is the *freedom* which you have given them? Is it FREEDOM? If you would now carry and offer it to the slaves, would they accept of it this day, if they knew all that belongs to it? There are, to be sure, some bitter things about slavery, but when all its bearings are considered, its present heaviest weight is seen not to fall upon the slave, but upon his master. I do not believe that giving merely nominal freedom is the way to elevate them. Still they are unfortunately situated, and have neither motive nor opportunity to rise.

A few months since I was traveling near to Canada, and desiring to see the result of freedom, as they found it in their northern flight, with their eyes fixed on the polar star. And I inquired about them, and I found that when they first came there they were docile and full of hope, but soon their appearance changed, they lost their buoyancy of spirits, — became indolent, unwilling to submit to the restraints of society which the whites submit to, and as a necessary consequence, a large number of them were in the penitentiary, and others are in the greatest state of want and wretchedness. They do not think they have bettered their condition by the change. They say they were *betrayed* and deceived, that false hopes were held out to them, and allured them on. One man

said to me, after a long and candid conversation, "I never knew misery till I came to this freedom," and he begged me, "sue out a *hocus pocus* for him and get him back."

There is no advantage gained by going to Canada. British philanthropy may boast as long as they choose, the facts in the case are all against them.

Go and sit down with the colored man, and ask him where do you find your best friends? And he will tell you among the *colonizationists*.

Does the principle promise all that we think? Experience thus far proves that it does, and until I find another method by which the African can convince the world that he is a man, rise to a standing among the most favored of Adam's children, and send the light of civilization and Christianity through Africa, God forbid that I should abandon this only hope, on which Heaven has smiled, which embodies the relief demanded, and is capable of being carried into full execution!

But let us test this a little further. I have known a man in Newark, well educated, highly intelligent, who writes well, and possesses every requisite for a first rate member of society. He tried to introduce his family into society. They were well educated and perfectly genteel in their manners. He tried to get his children into the schools in New York and other places, but he found it entirely hopeless, and had to give it up. He has been strongly opposed to colonization, but one of his sons, feeling his dark prospect in this country, determined to go to Liberia, and no sooner had he gained a foothold there, than he felt the vantage ground on which he stood, and he wrote home that his mind was in a state of peace and hope never known before.

## Origin of Colonization—Proposition of Mr. Jefferson, &amp;c.

We believe, therefore, that the principle is now doing all that can be done with advantage, and that enlarged means only are necessary to enable it, under Divine Providence, to accomplish all that we can reasonably hope for.

Now, with this cause before us, throwing light upon the future, and pleading for the salvation of millions, we appeal to the friends of the race every where, to come nobly up to the work, and render that aid which the necessity of the case so eminently demands!

The Rev. J. B. Pinney seconded the resolution and said, that instead of half an hour, he wanted three hours to say all that was passing in his thoughts. I have spent many years in serving this cause, both in this country and in Africa, and as I am now on my way to enter on the duties of a pastor of a church, and seek rest from the arduous and responsible duties of an agent, I feel my heart kindling while I mingle with you in these exercises. I do not expect to *quit* this cause! Wherever I am I shall plead its merits, and hope to add something to its treasury.

Mr. Pinney traced the original idea of colonization to Thos. Jefferson, that sage patriot, and drafter of the "Declaration of Independence." Two years after he penned that memorable document, he prepared a draft of the Constitution for the State of Virginia, in which he incorporated the plan of colonizing the slaves.

At first slavery was profitable, and New England and Old England were benefited thereby. But Virginia felt the curse, and began to fear for the result, and said to the mother country, give us no more slaves! England would not hear her remonstrance so long as *the trade* was profitable to her manufacturers and commercial men. Mr. Jefferson proposed that in ten years they should become free

and be held by the State, and in twenty years be sent back to Liberia.

Some plan of colonization became the popular idea in Virginia. In 1804, the Legislature instructed Mr. Monroe, then governor, to open negotiations with the President of the United States, to see what could be done on the subject. In 1816, they again acted on the subject, and desired the President to find a home for them in Africa, or elsewhere. Mr. Marshall proposed that western lands should be given for this purpose. Madison was a warm friend of the Society, and left it a handsome legacy. Clay, and Meade, and Alexander, and thousands beside who stand high in the State and in the church, became and still are its warm supporters.

After ten years labor in this cause I am fully persuaded that no other plan is so prolific of good.

Let the Society go forward, it will be supported. Prayers are not forgotten in Heaven. Africa will be blest. America will be blest for starting colonization.

The thing is practicable. Twenty thousand paupers from Europe cross the Atlantic every year for our country.

But we cannot pretend to follow Mr. Pinney in his rapid descriptions, in his unanswerable arguments and his moving appeals.

We have given but a meager outline of any of the speeches.

After Mr. P. had concluded, the Society adjourned to meet in the Colonization Rooms, at 12 o'clock, to-morrow, for the transaction of business.

COLONIZATION ROOMS, Jan. 20, 1847.

The Society met, A. G. Phelps, Esq., took the chair. The following

## Election of officers.—Officers.—Meeting of the Board of Directors.

officers were elected for the ensuing year:

## PRESIDENT:

HON. HENRY CLAY.

## VICE PRESIDENTS:

- 1 General John H. Cocke, of Virginia,
- 2 Daniel Webster, of Massachusetts,
- 3 Charles F. Mercer, of Florida,
- 4 Rev. Jeremiah Day, D. D., of Conn.,
- 5 Theodore Frelinghuysen, of N. York,
- 6 Louis McLane, of Baltimore,
- 7 Moses Allen, of New York,
- 8 General W. Jones, of Washington,
- 9 Joseph Gales, of Washington,
- 10 Right Rev. Wm. Meade, D. D., Bishop of Virginia,
- 11 John McDonogh, of Louisiana,
- 12 Geo. Washington Lafayette, of France,
- 13 Rev. James O. Andrew, Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church,
- 14 William Maxwell, of Virginia,
- 15 Elisha Whittlesey, of Ohio,
- 16 Walter Lowrie, of New York,
- 17 Jacob Burnet, of Ohio,
- 18 Dr. Stephen Duncan, of Mississippi,
- 19 William C. Rives, of Virginia,
- 20 Rev. J. Laurie, D. D., of Washington,
- 21 Rev. Wm. Winans, of Mississippi,
- 22 James Boorman, of New York city,
- 23 Henry A. Foster, of New York,
- 24 Dr. John Ker, of Mississippi,
- 25 Robert Campbell, of Georgia,
- 26 Peter D. Vroom, of New Jersey,
- 27 James Garland, of Virginia,
- 28 Rev. Thomas Morris, Bishop of the M. E. Church, Ohio,
- 29 Rt. Hon. Lord Bexley, of London,
- 30 Wm. Short, of Philadelphia,
- 31 Willard Hall, Delaware,
- 32 Rt. Rev. Bishop Otey, of Tenn.,
- 33 Gerald Ralston, of London,

- 34 Rev. Courtland Van Rensselaer, N. J.,
- 35 Dr. Hodgkin, of London,
- 36 Rev. E. Burgess, D. D., of Dedham, Massachusetts,
- 37 Thos. R. Hazard, of Providence, R. I.,
- 38 Dr. Thos. Massie, of Tye River Mills, Virginia,
- 39 Gen. Alexander Brown, of Virginia,
- 40 Maj. Gen. Winfield Scott, Washington,
- 41 Rev. Thos. E. Bond, D. D., N. York,
- 42 Rev. A. Alexander, D. D., N. Jersey,
- 43 Samuel Wilkeson, of New York,
- 44 L. Q. C. Elmer, of New Jersey,
- 45 James Railey, of Mississippi,
- 46 Rev. Geo. W. Bethune, D. D., of Phila.
- 47 Rev. C. C. Cuyler, D. D., Phila.,
- 48 Elliot Cresson, Esq., of Philadelphia,
- 49 Anson G. Phelps, Esq., New York,
- 50 Rev. Leonard Woods, D. D., Andover, Massachusetts,
- 51 Jonathan Hyde, Esq., Bath, Maine,
- 52 Rev. J. P. Durbin, D. D., Carlisle, Pa.
- 53 Rev. Beverly Waugh, Bishop of the M. E. Church, Baltimore,
- 54 Rev. Dr. W. B. Johnson, S. C.,
- 55 Moses Shepherd, Baltimore,
- 56 John Gray, Fredericksburg, Va.,
- 57 Bishop McIlvaine, of Ohio,
- 58 Rev. Dr. Edgar, Nashville, Tenn.,
- 59 Rev. P. Lindsley, D. D., do
- 60 Hon. J. R. Underwood, Kentucky,
- 61 Hon. J. W. Huntington, Connecticut,
- 62 Hon. P. White, Putney, Vermont,
- 63 Hon. C. Marsh, Woodstock, Vermont,
- 64 Rev. J. J. Janeway, D. D., N. Orleans,
- 65 Hon. S. A. Douglass, Illinois,
- 66 H. L. Lumpkin, Esq., Athens, Geo.,
- 67 James Lenox, New York.

After which the Society adjourned to meet on the third Tuesday of January, 1848.

Proceedings of the Board of Directors of the American Colonization Society.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 19, 1847.

The Board of Directors of the American Colonization Society met, at the Colonization Rooms, at 12 o'clock, M., according to adjournment, and was constituted by the appointment of the Hon. L. Q. C. Elmer President, and the Rev. A. D. Eddy secretary.

The Rev. Mr. Wynkoop offered prayer.

The following individuals appeared as Directors—Hon. L. Q. C. Elmer and the Rev. A. D. Eddy, D. D., from *New Jersey*.

Rev. Joel Parker, D. D., Archibald McIntyre, and Paul T. Jones, from *Pennsylvania*.

Hon. W. W. Campbell and D. M. Reese, M. D., from *New York*.

Rev. S. R. Wynkoop, from *Delaware*.

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Proceedings of the Board.—Resolution concerning the slaver "Pons."

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A. G. Phelps, Esq., E. Cresson, Esq., and Rev. W. McLain, life Directors.

William Gunton, Ulysses Ward, of the Executive Committee.

The minutes of the last annual meeting were read by the Secretary of the Society, the Rev. W. McLain.

The ANNUAL REPORT was read by the Secretary; which was committed to the Rev. Dr. Parker, Dr. Reese, and Mr. McLain.

Messrs. Phelps, Jones, and Dr. Parker, were appointed to examine the Treasurer's accounts.

Adjourned to meet at half past nine o'clock to-morrow morning.

WEDNESDAY MORNING,

9½ o'clock, Jan. 20, 1847.

The Board met according to adjournment.

Present as before, with the addition of the Rev. Dr. Janeway, director from *New Jersey*, and the Rev. J. B. Pinney, a life Director.

A communication was made to the Board, by Mr. McLain, Secretary of the Society, respecting the present condition of the Colony of Liberia, and the arrangements which are required to be made in view of the change in the relations of the colony to the Colonization Society.

The Hon. Jabez Huntington, appeared as a delegate from *Connecticut*.

On motion of the Rev. A. D. Eddy, the subject introduced by the

Secretary, Mr. McLain, was referred to a Select Committee for consideration, to report at the present meeting as far as practicable. Messrs. Elmer, McIntyre, and Reese, were appointed as the committee.

Dr. James Hall, Secretary of the Maryland Colonization Society, being present, was invited to sit with the Board, at its present meeting.

On motion of Dr. Reese—

*Resolved*, That the Corresponding Secretary be requested to report to the Board at the afternoon session, what legacies to the Society are yet unsettled, and whether any such are in litigation, with such information thereon as may be in possession of the Executive Committee.

On motion of Rev. A. D. Eddy—

*Resolved*, That a committee be appointed to present a memorial to Congress to secure remuneration for the support of the recaptured Africans, from the ship "Pons" landed at Monrovia, and if necessary, to make efforts to secure a law to meet the exigencies of similar cases that may occur in future.

Messrs. Elmer, A. G. Phelps, A. D. Eddy, J. B. Pinney, and Cresson, were appointed the committee.

On motion, the Board had a recess to meet at the call of the President for the purpose of attending the meeting of the Society.

After recess, the Board were called to order by the President.

The committee appointed to examine the Treasurer's account made the following report, which was accepted, viz:

Dr. Receipts and Expenditures of the American Colonization Society, Cr.  
 From 1st January, 1846, to 1st January, 1847.

To cash on hand per last report, - - - -	\$11,159 43	By cash paid for passage of emigrants, provisions, &c.,	\$7,150 67
Balances due the Society per last report, - -	3,939 66	Cash paid for goods consigned to the Colonial Store, - - - -	14,820 39
Received from Colonial Store, - - - -	6,345 72	Cash paid for improvements, purchase of territory, salaries of Governor and Colonial Secretary, and other expenses in Liberia, - - - -	5,690 78
Received from donations, - - - -	25,755 52	Cash paid salary of Secretary, rent of office, clerk hire, stationery, lights, fuel, &c., - - - -	2,622 22
Received from legacies, - - - -	1,307 20	Cash paid for printing census of Liberia and other documents, and engraving and printing maps, &c., - - - -	645 00
Received from subscriptions to the African Repository, - - - -	2,397 89	Cash paid salaries of Agents, and other expenses in collecting funds, - - - -	3,900 97
Profit and loss, - - - -	154 03	Cash paid for paper and printing the African Repository, - - - -	2,318 32
		Profit and loss, payments by order of the Executive Committee, &c., - - - -	1,581 53
		Balances due the Society this day, (including amount sent to the Colonial Store for the purchase of territory,) - - - -	12,273 07
		Cash in hand, - - - -	57 50
	<b>\$51,039 45</b>		<b>\$51,039 45</b>

COLONIZATION ROOMS, Washington, January 1st, 1847.

NOAH FLETCHER, *Book-keeper.*

The Committee to whom was referred the Treasurer's Account, beg leave to report—That they have carefully examined the same, and compared it with the vouchers, and find the above statement to be correct and satisfactory.

JANUARY 20, 1847.

ANSON G. PHELPS, }  
 PAUL T. JONES, } *Auditors.*

## Report of Select Committee on relations of Liberia to the A. C. S.

The Select Committee on the relations of the Colonization Society to the contemplated independent government of Liberia, reported, and their report was adopted, and is as follows—

The committee to whom was referred the relations of this Society with the contemplated Independent Government in Liberia, report: That the time does not seem to have come when these relations can be definitely settled. Our latest advices from Gov. Roberts, inform us that a majority of the people have concluded, but not without considerable hesitation and opposition, to become independent, and that the Legislature which was to meet during the present month of January, would provide for calling a convention to adopt a constitution. It is expected that in pursuance of the suggestion of this Board, Commissioners will be appointed by the Government of Liberia to arrange with us the future relations between that Government and this Society; but whether that commission will be sent here before a Constitution of Government is framed and submitted to the people, or whether a constitution will be first adopted, we are not informed. The Committee are of opinion that it may be desirable that this Society and its general rights in Liberia, should be in some form recognized in the constitution. They therefore recommend the adoption by the Board of the following resolutions:

*First.* That the Executive Committee be instructed to suggest, in the manner that may be deemed by them most likely to be acceptable to the authorities and people of Liberia, that this Board is desirous that commissioners on the part of Liberia should come here and have a full and free conference with us before a constitution is framed; and that, in case

such commissioners should come before the next annual meeting of the Board, the Executive Committee call a special meeting at such time and place as they shall deem most expedient.

*Second.* That the Committee be further instructed to suggest to the said authorities and people of Liberia that, in case they deem it most expedient to frame a constitution before their commissioners meet us, this Board would be pleased to have the existing rights of the Society recognized in the constitution, at the same time assuring them that it is our earnest desire to take such a course, in reference to our property in Liberia, and to all our future relations with the Government there, as will be most acceptable to and most promotive of the interest of the people.

*Third.* That in case circumstances shall render it desirable, the Executive Committee be authorized to appoint a commissioner or commissioners to Liberia, with full powers to settle the future relations of the Society with the Government and people there, by provisions to be inserted in the constitution to be adopted, or by a compact between the Society and the authorities organized under the new constitution as shall be found most expedient.

L. Q. C. ELMER,

*Chairman.*

The Secretary, agreeable to a resolution of the Board this morning, made a full statement relating to unsettled legacies made to the Society, and the circumstances attending them.

The committee to whom was referred the Annual Report of the Executive Committee, reported, that they had examined the report, and expressed their approbation of its general character—whereupon:

Resolutions.—Appointment of Executive Committee, Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer.

*Resolved*, That the report be referred to the Executive Committee for publication.

The following resolutions were submitted by the Rev. Mr. McLain, and on motion, they were unanimously adopted :

Whereas, we have learned that the Rev. J. B. Pinney, has resolved to accept of a pastoral charge, and retire from the active duties of an agent of this Society ; therefore,

*Resolved*, That we deeply regret the loss which we sustain in the retirement of our long tried and efficient coadjutor.

*Resolved*, That the cordial gratitude of this Board be tendered to Mr. Pinney, for his faithful and invaluable labors in connection with this cause, and that he be assured that our best wishes attend him in his new field of labor, and our hope, that the time may not be far distant when with renewed energy and vigor, he will again return to our assistance.

Messrs. Reese and Dr. Janeway, were appointed to nominate officers for the ensuing year.

The above committee reported as follows:—The Rev. Mr. McLain, for Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer.

For the Executive Committee, M. St. C. Clarke, H. Lindsly, A. O. Dayton, Jos. H. Bradley, J. C. Bacon, William Gunton, and Ulysses Ward.

The report was accordingly adopted.

The committee appointed to present a memorial to the President of

the United States and to Congress, praying for remuneration for expenses incurred in the maintenance of the recaptured Africans on board the slave ship "Pons," &c., reported a memorial, which was unanimously adopted by the Board, and directed to be presented to the Executive and to both Houses of Congress.

The committee were also continued to act in the case.

*Resolved*, That the thanks of the Board of Directors are due, and are hereby tendered to the Corresponding Secretary and the Executive Committee of the last year, for the faithful and efficient performance of their duties.

*Resolved*, That the thanks of the Board are due and are hereby tendered to the Hon. L. Q. C. Elmer, for his valuable services as their presiding officer.

*Resolved*, That, in the case of the will of the late Mr. William Smart, the Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer, be and he hereby is vested with full power and authority, to sign for, and affix the seal of this Society to the required bonds, on behalf of the American Colonization Society.

The minutes of the Board were read and approved.

The Board adjourned to meet the third Tuesday of January, 1848, at 12 o'clock, M.

Concluded with prayer by the Rev. Mr. Pinney.

L. Q. C. ELMER,  
President.

A. D. EDDY, Secretary.

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The Liberia Packet—dimensions, &c.—Formation of a Joint Stock Company.

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### The Liberia Packet.

WITHIN is a sketch of the hull of this vessel and her proposed spars and rigging, also a view of a section through the centre line, and a plan of the deck viewed from above, all engraved on wood by Mr. Manning of this city.

The sketch represents the vessel as having just rounded to, and let go her anchor off the coast—say at Messurado or Cape Palmas. This mere profile or side view, on so small a scale, although actually drawn from life, can give but a very imperfect idea of the beautiful model of the vessel; yet 'tis enough to demonstrate to the practiced eye that she is no lugger. The first object in her construction, was the comfort of the emigrants, the next, speed—and there can be but little doubt of her perfection in both respects. The length of her keel is 112 feet; breadth of beam 25 feet; draught of water when loaded, 13 feet; dead rise 18 inches; rake of masts  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches to the foot; she is well but not heavily sparred. She has a poop deck rising from the main deck  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet extending 66 feet, forming the emigrant's cabin: the floor of which is sunk  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet below the main deck, leaving 6 feet in the clear. This cabin is well lighted and ventilated, having windows looking forward in the break of the deck, (well secured in rough weather by *dead lights*.) also stern windows such as are usually placed in vessels of her class. The companion-way varies from the one represented in the section of the vessel; it is made like the entrance to the main cabin of steamboats, open on both sides descending to a broad stair, the front part being left open for the free admission of air. The booby hatch, K, is surrounded by glass windows and iron gratings that admit of light and air freely.

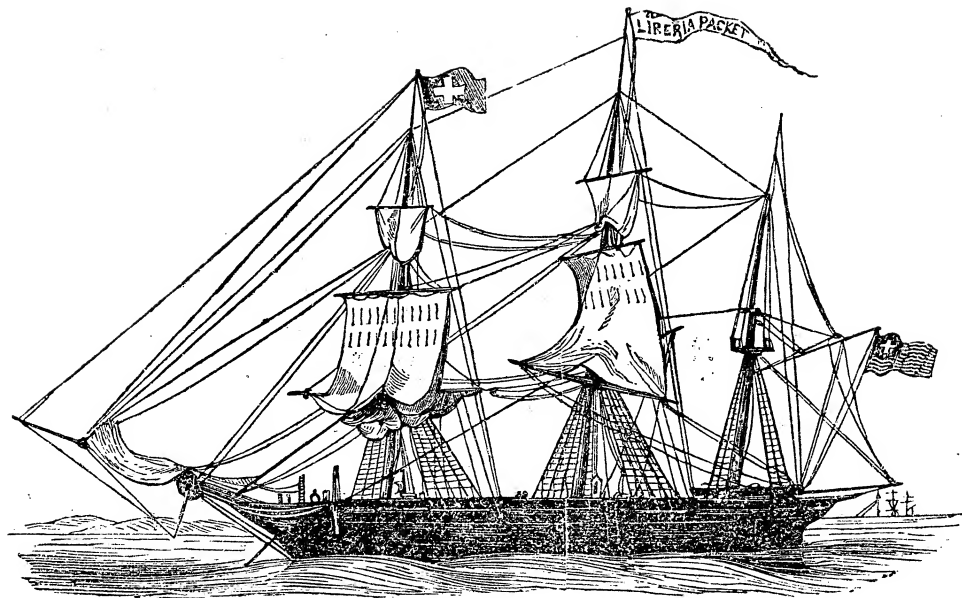
Bull's eyes or sky lights will be placed in the deck between this and the stern, on each side of the deck cabin. Two patent water closets are also placed in this cabin. There are 11 lengths of berths, 4 feet wide each, three tiers on each side with the exception of the sternmost. A tank holding over 2,000 gallons extends through this cabin from the keelson to the upper deck. A scuttle communicates with the lower hold, under which the emigrants' provisions and water is placed. The lockers, N, N, under the fore windows contain their small stores.

From this brief sketch it must be apparent to any one at all acquainted with nautical matters, that the accommodations afforded by this vessel to the emigrants to Liberia, are all that can be desired for their *health* or *comfort*, and second only to those of the first class passenger ships.

The upper cabin for those paying their own passage, is placed on the poop deck, made and finished in the ordinary manner for vessels of her class. It is divided into three parts, viz: the ladies' cabin aft, with 2 state rooms, containing 4 berths; the gentlemen's cabin, with 8 open berths, and 2 state rooms forward for officers and steward.

This packet is owned by a joint stock company, formed under a charter obtained from the Legislature of the state of Maryland, under the title of "The Chesapeake and Liberia Trading Company." It is most liberal in all its provisions, allowing the Company to extend its capital, if desirable, to \$100,000.

This charter was obtained in the hope and belief, that an amount of stock, sufficient to put one vessel in operation, would be subscribed for by colored people of the United States and Liberia; as such a mea-



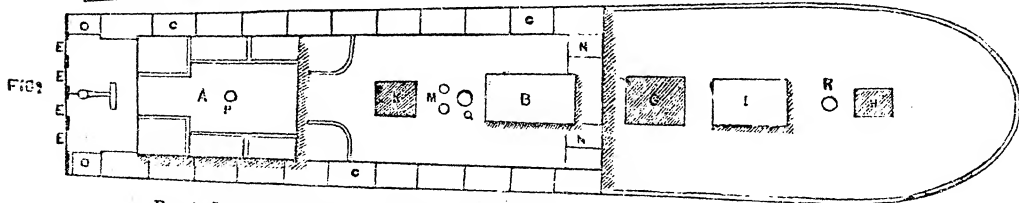
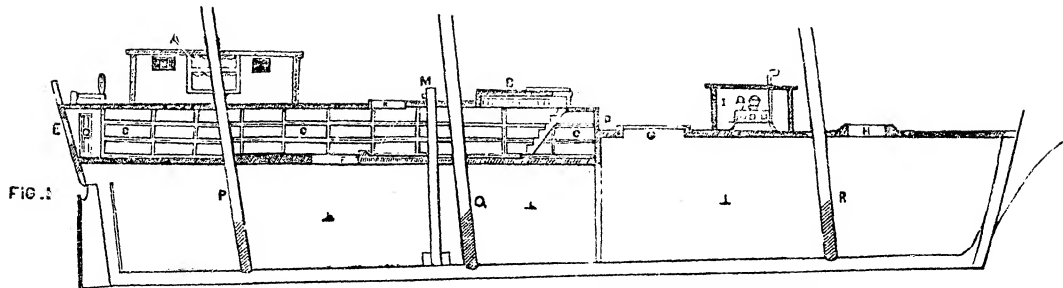


FIG. 1. SECTION THROUGH THE CENTRE LINE OF VESSEL.

FIG. 2. PLAN OF VESSEL.

A. Upper cabin. B. Companion and skylight to emigrants' cabin. C. Emigrants' cabin, containing 66 double berths in 3 tiers. D. Windows from emigrants' cabin looking forward. E. Windows from emigrants' cabin looking aft. F. Main Hatch. G. Main Hatch. H. Fore-castle. I. Galley. J. Hold. K. Booby hatch. L. Fore-mast. M. Pumps. N. Lockers for small stores in emigrants' cabin. O. Water closets. P. Mizen-mast. Q. Main-mast. R. Fore-mast.

The upper cabin contains four state rooms with two berths each, and eight berths besides. Both cabins are six feet in the clear. Only so much of the vessel is shewn as is necessary to explain the accommodations for passengers.

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Life Members of the American Colonization Society, constituted in 1846.

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sure would tend much to disabuse the minds of the colored people of this country of the false impressions which they have heretofore entertained with regard to Liberia, and bring them and their transatlantic brethren nearer together.—This hope however, has not been fully realized. Many among the colored people who were most anxious to have the thing established, have declined making good their subscriptions and the result has been a subscription for a majority of the stock necessary for building the Packet by several white gentlemen favorable to the scheme. All such subscriptions, however, are made on the condition of a transfer of the same at its fair market value when it shall be desired by any colored person, either in the United States or Liberia. The whole amount of funds originally obtained on subscription to the "Cape Palmas Packet," has been invested in the stock of this Company, in the name of the Maryland State Colonization Society, as it was believed the present plan would prove equally advantageous to the Society in its general results and more economical. A very liberal subscription has been made in advance by several prominent citizens of Liberia, which we doubt not will be increased on the first voyage of the Packet to the amount desired, viz: one-half of her value. It is intended to keep the vessel

running regularly between the ports of Baltimore and Norfolk, and the several Liberia colonies, making two, three, or even four voyages a year, depending in a great measure upon the amount of freight or emigrants offered by the Colonization Societies.

It is not intended to take freight for other parties, unless the Missionary Societies having stations in the colonies, should see fit to guarantee a certain amount of freight annually, as the Colonization Societies have done, in which case, the same facilities for regular shipments would be granted them. Cabin passengers, to the extent of the accommodations, will be taken at the usual rates, and every attention paid to their convenience and comfort. The under officers and crew of the vessel will be colored men, and it is intended to put her in charge of a colored man as master, as soon as one competent can be found. Letters and packages will always receive attention, and be delivered as directed, if practicable.

The vessel is under contract to be launched by the first of November, and there is no doubt of her being ready for sea by the 15th.

All communications relative to the Packet or the Company may be addressed to

JAMES HALL,

*Managing Agent.*

BALTIMORE, October 20, 1846.

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*Life Members of the American Colonization Society,*  
CONSTITUTED IN 1846.

<p>William H. Hubbard, Esq., Richmond, Va.; Hon. P. White, Putney, Vermont; Zina Hyde, Esq., Bath, Maine; T. W. Gillis, Esq., Nashua, New Hampshire; Miss Harriet Stebbins, Boston, Mass.; Rev. John M. C. Bartley, Hampstead, New</p>	<p>Hampshire; Mrs. Emeline Rockwell, Norwich, Connecticut; Thos. McMullen, Esq., Albany, New York; Israel Searle, Esq., Southampton, Massachusetts; Dr. J. C. Richardson, Fayette, Kentucky; Daniel Fry, Esq., Albany, New York; Dea.</p>
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 Second Voyage of the Liberia Packet.—Expedition from Savannah, Georgia.
 

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T. Walker, Rockville, Mass.; Harvey Baldwin, Esq., Hudson, Ohio; Mrs. Perses Bell, Chester, New Hampshire; Mrs. R. W. Francis, and Prof. Geo. W. Benedict, Burlington, Vermont; Rev. G. L. Brownell, Sharon, Connecticut; Joseph S. Fay, Esq., and Noble A. Hardee, Esq., Savannah, Georgia; A. Knapp, Esq., and A. Gascoigne, Mobile, Alabama; Miss Elizabeth Bertram, Jamaica, New York; Dean Walker, East Medway, Mass.; Mrs. C. P. Hail, Dayton, Ohio; J. Early Esq., La Porte, Indiana; Samuel Organ, Esq., La Porte, Indiana; Jacob Fuller, senior, Esq., Lexington, Virginia; Moses Kittbridge, St. Johnsbury, Vermont; Rev. Benjamin R. Allen, South Berwick, Me.; Erastus C. Scranton, Esq., Madison, Connecticut; J. H. Scranton, Esq., Augusta, Georgia; Peter Smith Holmway, Esq., Henderson County, Kentucky; Rev. B. H. Williams, Natchez, Mississippi; Mrs. Eliza Smith, Carlisle, Massachusetts; Rev. John Gretter, Greensboro', North Carolina; Mrs. Martha Boggs, Walnut Hill, Indiana; Rev. William Wilson, Cincinnati, Ohio; R. W. Keys, Esq., Cincinnati, Ohio; Alex. Guy, Esq., Cincinnati, Ohio; Mrs. Hannah, Pittsburg, Penn.; Rev. H. McMillan, Xenia, Ohio; William Bixby, Esq., Francistown, N. H.; Isaac Shelby, Esq., Lexington, Ky.; Rev. R. F. Caldwell, Sharpsburg, Ky.; Rev. William Cox, Lancaster, Ohio.

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 Second Voyage of the Liberia Packet.

THE Liberia Packet will sail on her second voyage, from Norfolk, Va., for Monrovia and other ports in Liberia, about the 1st of May, or as soon after her return from her present voyage as she can be gotten ready. She will doubtless be able to give first rate accommodations to all emigrants who may be ready to go at that time. We give this timely notice in order that there may be no disappointment when the day arrives.

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 Expedition from Savannah, Georgia.

MANY of our friends in Georgia are anxious that we should send a vessel from Savannah, to sail about the first of April next for Liberia. We therefore give notice that a vessel will sail from Savannah on the first day of April, or as soon thereafter as there shall be emigrants ready, sufficient to justify our incurring the expense. If sixty persons are offered, *certain*, we will dispatch the vessel. From what our agent, the Rev. Thomas C. Benning, and others, write us, we think there is but little doubt that number will be ready.

# CONSTITUTION

OF

## THE AMERICAN COLONIZATION SOCIETY.

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"Article 1. This Society shall be called 'The American Colonization Society.'

"Art. 2. The object to which its attention is to be exclusively directed is, to promote and execute a plan for colonizing, with their own consent, the free people of color residing in our country, in Africa, or such other place as Congress shall deem expedient. And the Society shall act, to effect this object, in co-operation with the General Government and such of the States as may adopt regulations on the subject.

"Art. 3. Every citizen of the United States who shall have paid to the funds of the Society the sum of one dollar, shall be a member of the Society for one year from the time of such payment. Any citizen who shall have paid the sum of thirty dollars, shall be a member for life. And any citizen paying the sum of one thousand dollars, shall be a Director for life. Foreigners may be made members by vote of the Society or of the Directors.

"Art. 4. The Society shall meet annually at Washington on the third Tuesday in January, and at such other times and places as they shall direct. At the annual meeting, a President and Vice Presidents shall be chosen, who shall perform the duties appropriate to those offices.

"Art. 5. There shall be a Board of Directors, composed of the Directors for life and of Delegates from the several State Societies and societies for the District of Columbia and Territories of the United States. Each of such societies shall be entitled to one Delegate for every five hundred dollars paid into the treasury of this Society within the year previous to the annual meeting.

"Art. 6. The Board shall annually appoint a Secretary, a Treasurer, and an Executive Committee of seven persons; all of whom shall, *ex officio*, be honorary members of the Board, having a right to be present at its meetings and to take part in the transaction of its business; but they shall not vote, except as provided in article 7.

"Art. 7. The Board of Directors shall meet annually in Washington, immediately after the annual meeting of the Society, and at such other times and places as it shall appoint, or at the request of the Executive Committee. Seven Directors shall form a quorum. But if, at any annual meeting, or meeting regularly called, a less number be in attendance, then five members of the Executive Committee, with such Directors, not less than four, as may be present, shall constitute a Board, and have competent authority to transact any business of the Society; provided, however, that the Board thus constituted shall carry no question unless the vote be unanimous.

"Art. 8. The Executive Committee shall meet according to its own appointment, or at the call of the Secretary. This Committee shall have discretionary power to transact the business of the Society, subject only to such limitations as are found in its charter, in this Constitution, and in the votes that have been passed, or may hereafter be passed, by the Board of Directors. The Secretary and Treasurer shall be members of the Committee *ex officio*, with the right to deliberate, but not to vote. The Committee is authorized to fill all vacancies in its own body; to appoint a Secretary or Treasurer whenever such offices are vacant; and to appoint and direct such agents as may be necessary for the service of the Society. At every annual meeting, the Committee shall report their doings to the Society, and to the Board of Directors.

"Art. 9. This Constitution may be amended, upon a proposition to that effect by any of the societies represented in the Board of Directors, transmitted to the Secretary, and published in the official paper of the Society, three months before the annual meeting; provided such amendment receive the sanction of two-thirds of the Board at its next annual meeting."

# AN ACT OF THE LEGISLATURE OF MARYLAND,

PASSED MARCH 22, 1837,

## *Entitled "An act to Incorporate the American Colonization Society."*

WHEREAS by an act of the General Assembly of Maryland, entitled "*An act to incorporate the American Colonization Society*," passed at December session, 1831, chapter 159, the said Society was incorporated with certain powers: And whereas it is represented to this General Assembly that the rights and interests of said Society have been materially injured, and are likely to suffer further injury, by certain alleged omissions on the part of said Society to give effect to said act: Therefore,

SEC. 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland*, That John C. Herbert, Daniel Murry, Joseph Kent, Ezekiel F. Chambers, Daniel Jenifer, George C. Washington, Virgil Maxcy, Zachaeus Collins Lee, Alexander Randall, Francis S. Key, Walter Jones, Ralph R. Gurley, and William W. Seaton, of the Society called the American Society for Colonizing the free people of color of the United States, and their successors, together with such others elected and qualified, as the present or future Constitution, by-laws, ordinances or regulations of said Society, do or shall hereafter prescribe, shall be, and they are hereby created and declared to be, a body politic and corporate, by the name, style and title of The American Colonization Society, and by that name shall have perpetual succession, and shall be able to sue and be sued, to plead and be impleaded, in any court of law or equity in this State, and may have and use a common seal, and the same may destroy, alter or renew at pleasure, and shall have power to purchase, have and enjoy, to them and their successors, in fee or otherwise, any land, tenements or hereditaments, by the gift, bargain, sale, devise, or other act of any person or persons, body politic or corporate whatsoever; to take and receive any sum or sums of money, goods or chattles, that shall be given, sold or bequeathed to them in any manner whatsoever; to occupy, use and enjoy, or sell, transfer, or otherwise dispose of, according to the by-laws and ordinances regulating the same, now or hereafter to be prescribed, all such lands, tenements or hereditaments, money, goods or chattles, as they shall determine to be most conducive to the colonizing, with their own consent, in Africa, of the free people of color residing in the United States, and for no other uses or purposes whatsoever; and as soon after the passage of this act as may be convenient, to elect such officers as they or a majority of them present may deem proper, and to make and ordain such Constitution, by-laws, ordinances, and regulations as may be necessary for the organization of the said Society; and to repeal, alter or amend the same; to prescribe the times of meeting, the qualifications and terms of membership, and to do all such other acts and deeds as they shall deem necessary, for regulating and managing the concerns of the said body corporate: *Provided, however*, that the Constitution and laws of this State and of the United States, and this act of Assembly, be not violated thereby.

SEC. 2. *And be it enacted*, That for the object aforesaid all property, real, personal and mixed, whether in action or possession, and all rights, credits and demands, owned, held or claimed, before this act, by the said Society, and all such property, rights, credits, and demands, as, were it not for this act, might hereafter be owned, held or claimed by the said Society, shall vest and are hereby declared to vest in the said body corporate, and its successors as fully and effectually as they have, or could have vested in the said Society; and also that the said body corporate, and its successors, are hereby declared to be as completely and effectually liable and responsible for all debts, demands and claims, due now or which would hereafter be due by the said Society, if this act of incorporation had not been granted, as the said Society is now or would hereafter be so liable and responsible for.

SEC. 3. *And be it enacted*, That the said body corporate, and its successors, shall forever be incapable of holding in fee or less estate, real property in the United States, the yearly value of which exceeds the sum of thirty thousand dollars, or the yearly value of so much thereof as may be in this State, exceeds the sum of five thousand dollars.

SEC. 4. *And be it enacted*, That the act hereinbefore mentioned of the General Assembly of Maryland, chapter one hundred and eighty-nine of December session, eighteen hundred and thirty, be and the same is hereby repealed: *Saving and reserving, however*, to the persons incorporated by said act, and to the American Colonization Society, all the rights and powers conferred by said act, so far as the same may be necessary for the recovery, possession, holding, or enjoyment of any property, real, personal, or mixed, chose in action or franchise of any description whatsoever, which may have been heretofore given, granted, devised, or bequeathed to or otherwise acquired by the said persons, or any of them, or to or by the American Colonization Society.

SEC. 5. *And be it enacted*, That this act, and the powers and privileges granted thereby, may be at any time repealed, modified amended or changed, at the discretion of the General Assembly.